# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1832
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
FEMALE POPULATION
RATTAN LAL KATARIA

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the female population is constantly decreasing due to increasing female foeticide in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to maintain equal male-female ratio?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SH SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1832 TO BE ANSWERED OI MARCH, 2000

(a) The number of females per 1000 males has decreased from 946 in 1951 to 927 in 1991. The lower sex ration for females may be due to several reasons, which include mortality differentials, higher preference for the male child and sex-selective abortions based on determination of sex of unborn foetuses.

(b) A Reproductive and Child Health Programme started in October, 1997 is being implemented throughout the country. Under this programme the interventions which include immunisation programme, control of acute respiratory diseases, diarrheal diseases, prophylaxis against Vitamin `A` and Iron deficiency against anaemia are being implemented in all districts. In addition, equipment for essential new-born care is being provided to PHCs, CHCs and district hospitals in a phased manner.

With a view to regulate and prevent the misuse of modern pre-natal diagnostic techniques, leading to detection and selective abortion of female foetus, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has come into force in the country from 1st January, 1996.

The Department of Women and Child Development has taken various initiatives for development of the girl child as well as for the empowerment of women. These are:

(i) Balika Samridhi Yojana : Launched in 1997 to give financial help to Families below the poverty line in which a girl child was born.

(ii) Integrated Child Development Services.

(iii) Adolescent Girls Scheme: The scheme attempts to raise the health and nutrition status of adolescent girls.

(iv) National Plan of action for SAARC Decade of the Girl Child (1991-2000).

(v) Rural Women`s Development and Empowerment Programme.

(vi) Training and income generation activities for women.